

Module 4: Curriculum and Learning Environments

Handout 6

Asking Meaningful Questions vs. Giving Simple Information

Caregivers can increase children’s language and vocabulary and extend the child’s learning by asking meaningful questions. This also allows the child to begin to problem solve, think creatively and engage more fully in their environment. The chart below offers examples of thoughtful questions to ask versus simply giving the child information.

| Scenario | Meaningful Questions | Giving Information |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A child brings her dog for show and tell to preschool. All of the children are very excited about the dog. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -What does your dog like to do? -How are dogs the same as/different from people? How about cats? -How do you take care of your dog? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All dogs have four legs and are covered with fur. -Dogs need to be cared for. They need food and water and exercise. -Doctors who care for animals are called veterinarians. |
| It is late September and you have taken the class for a walk to collect leaves. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Why do you think that the leaves are different shapes, colors and sizes? -When do leaves fall off the trees? -Why do leaves fall off trees? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Leaves change colors and fall to the ground in fall. -There are many different kinds of trees. Each tree has its own shape and size of leaf. -Leaves grow on trees every spring. |
| It is the first snowfall of the year. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -What is the temperature like outside when it snows? -What are some of the things we can do in the snow? -What happens to snow when it gets warm? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All snowflakes are different. -It must be cold outside to snow. -Snow melts and changes to water when warm. -We wear warm coats, hats, mittens, and boots to go outside in the snow. |
| Write a scenario here: | What are three questions you could ask? | |
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